

Sherman Reservoir

2009 Angler Survey Summary

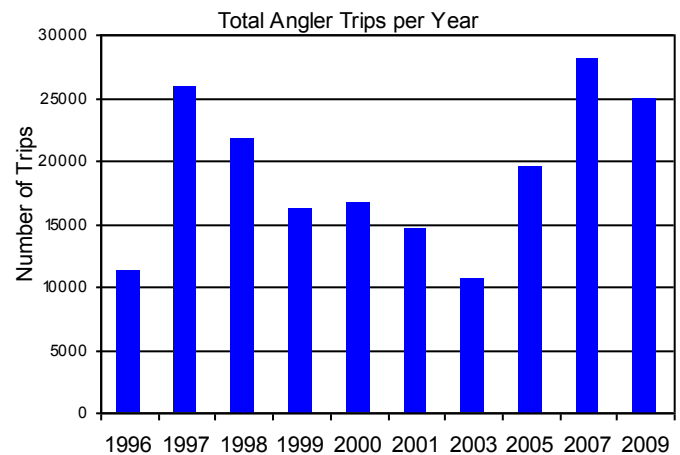


Brad Eifert, Fisheries Biologist

An angler survey was conducted on Sherman Reservoir from April 1 through October 31. During this time period there were 20 randomly selected days per month, fourteen during the week and six on weekends, on which anglers were counted and interviewed. In total, there were 138 days that were surveyed and 1,117 interviews conducted during the seven month time period. The information gathered from the angler survey allows for estimates of angling pressure, catch and harvest rates, catch per hour, and size structure of the fish caught. The following text and graphs provide a summary of the survey data from 2009, as well as from the past surveys.

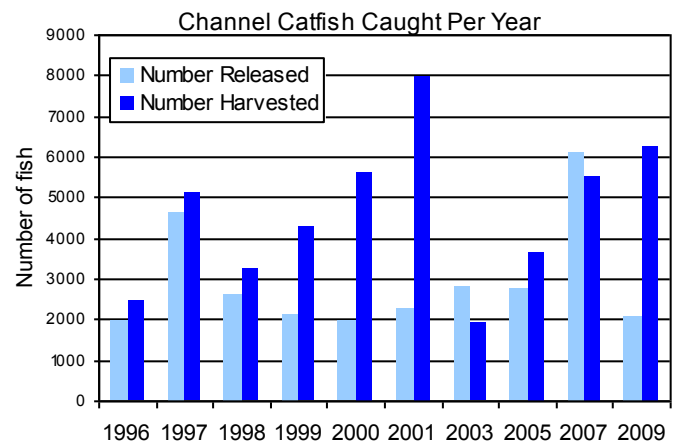
Angler Trips

Although there was a slight decline in the number of angling trips made to Sherman Reservoir during 2009, the estimated 24,855 trips ranks as the third highest number of fishing trips recorded since the angler survey began in 1996. Anglers spent an estimated 130,984 hours fishing at Sherman during the seven month survey period, an average of 5.3 hours per trip. Thirty-nine percent of the trips were made seeking walleye, 19% seeking crappie, 10% seeking channel catfish, 7% seeking white bass and 24% fishing for any species they could catch. Anglers from five states and 47 Nebraska counties were contacted in the survey. Hall County contributed the most anglers followed by Buffalo, Sherman, Howard, Douglas, and Lancaster, respectively.



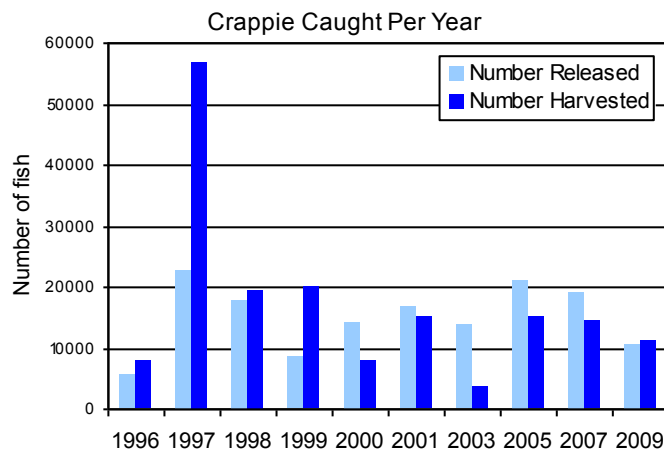
Channel Catfish

While the total catch of channel catfish was slightly lower, the number of harvested catfish continued an increasing trend. Total catch consisted of 8,340 catfish, with 6,252 harvested and 2,088 released. Total weight of harvested channel catfish was 12,243 pounds. The average length of catfish that were harvested was 17.1 inches and the average weight was 1.5 pounds. The catch rate for anglers seeking channel catfish was similar to results from 2007, as anglers caught 0.3 fish/hour and harvested 0.27 fish/hour.



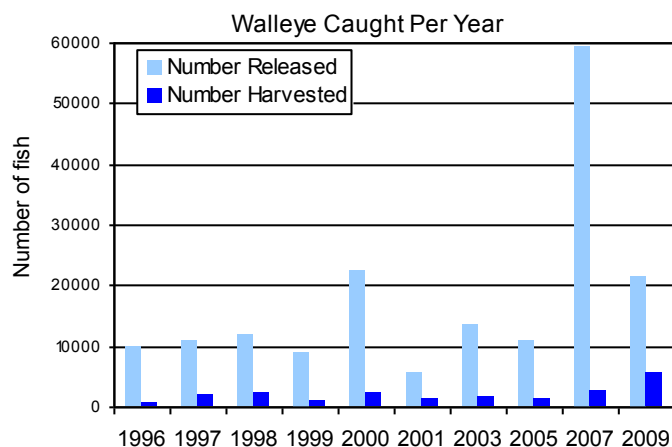
Crappie

Crappie catch continued a declining trend, as numbers of both harvested and released fish were the lowest recorded since 2003. Total catch was 21,759 crappie, of which 10,473 were released and 11,285 were harvested. Total weight of harvested fish was 9,496 pounds. The average length of a harvested crappie was 11.5 inches and the average weight was 0.8 pounds. Catch rates for anglers specifically targeting crappie were fair, as anglers caught 1.0 fish/hour and harvested 0.33 fish per hour.



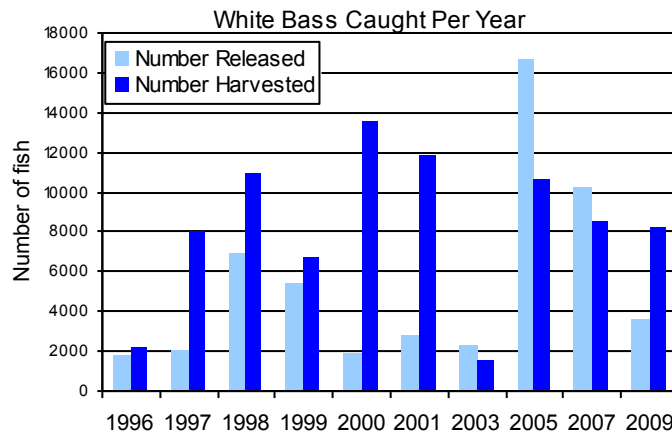
Walleye

Walleye success remained excellent, as the number of walleye caught was the second highest documented since the angler survey started in 1996. Total catch was 26,773 walleye during the seven month survey period. Of that total, 21,306 were released and a record 5,467 were harvested. The increase in harvest can be partially contributed to changes in harvest regulations, which now allows for the harvest of 15 to 20 inch fish. Approximately 62% of the walleye harvest consisted of fish between 15 and 18 inches. There were a total of 11,578 pounds of walleye harvested. The average length of harvested walleye was 17.6 inches and the average weight was 2.1 pounds. The catch rate for anglers fishing specifically for walleye was 0.4 fish/hour, while the harvest rate was 0.09 fish/hour. Overall, approximately 67% of anglers seeking walleyes were successful at catching a walleye while at Sherman.



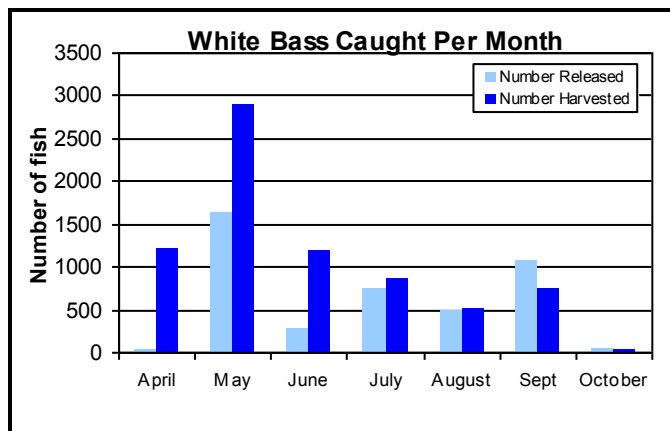
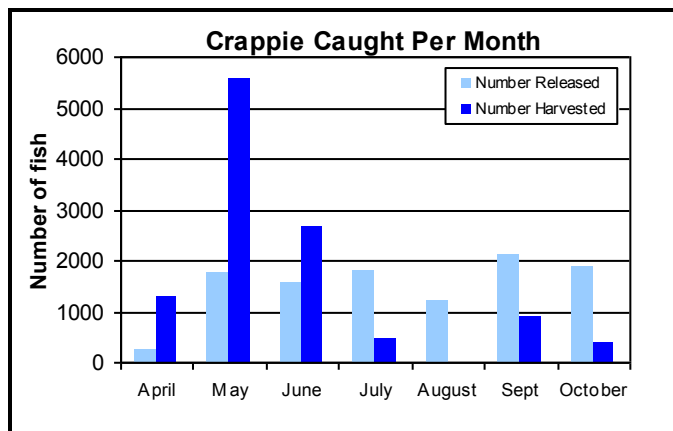
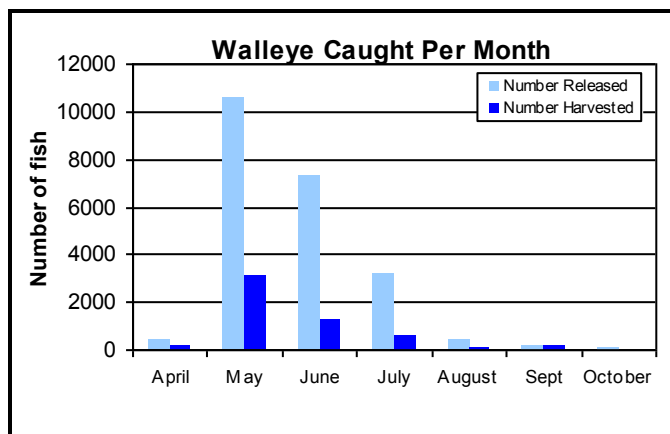
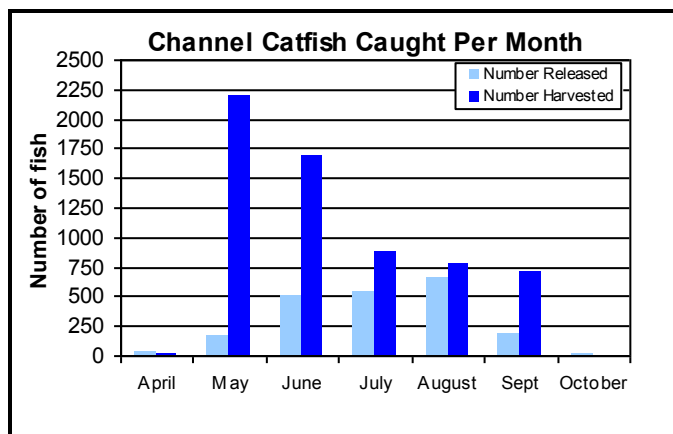
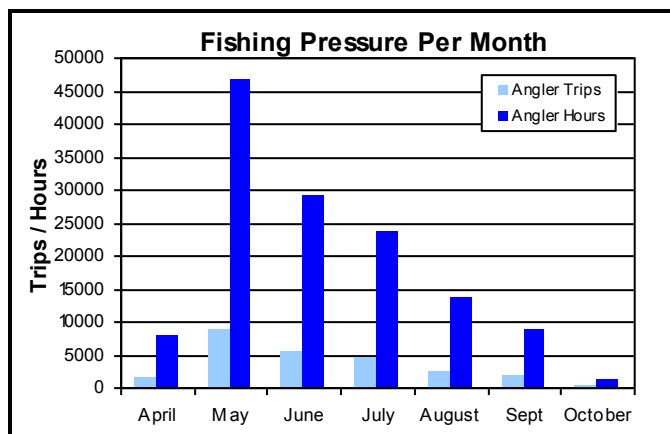
White Bass

The total catch of white bass was the lowest recorded since 2003. While total catch was lower, the number of harvested fish was nearly the same as 2007 results. There were 11,654 white bass caught during the survey period. Of that total, 3,474 were released and 8,180 were harvested. There were 7,941 pounds of white bass harvested. The average length of harvested white bass was 12.4 inches and the average weight was 1.0 pound. Anglers specifically seeking white bass caught 1.0 fish/hour and harvested 0.8 fish/hour.



2009 Sherman Reservoir Angler Survey - Monthly Estimates

The following graphs show monthly estimates of fishing pressure and angler catch by species at Sherman Reservoir during 2009. Fishing pressure peaked during May and declined steadily throughout the remainder of the survey. Harvest was also highest for all species during the month of May. Channel catfish harvest was highest in May and June, but remained consistent through September. Crappie catch was best in May and June, but also improved during September and October. Walleye catch also peaked in May, but anglers also caught good numbers of walleye during June and July. White bass harvest was highest in May, but remained fair during the summer months.



For additional information about fisheries management at Sherman Reservoir please contact the NGPC Kearney office at 308-865-5310 or by email at the addresses listed below.

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